



NO CHICKENS IN MOY PARK

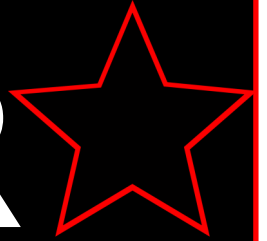


IDENTITY PARADES



MEANWHILE IN BALLYMENA: THE FUTURE IS 'GREEN-ISH'.

BLACK STAR

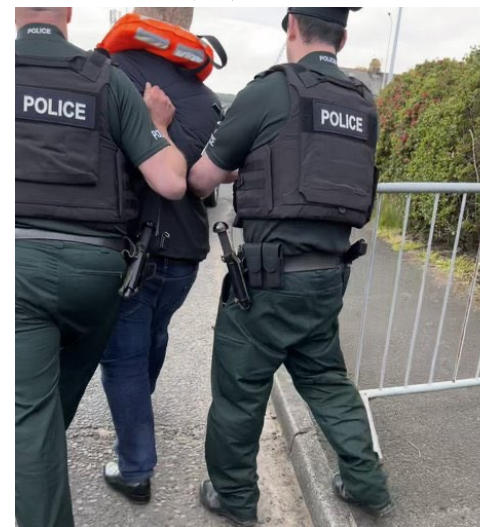


Shut Them Down!

The British government have finally terminated the contract between P&O Ferries and the UK Border Authority, except that the contract was really just a contingency plan to ship Border Force staff to northern France on their ferries if the Channel Tunnel was unavailable. Meanwhile, Larne port saw renewed protests by the RMT at the end of May. Protests saw the cops move in at Larne as trade union members attempted to block a lorry from crossing the picket line. One man was arrested by police when cops moved in to clear a path for the scab lorry.

The protest at Larne renewed calls for the continued boycott of P&O, the impounding of their ships, and an end to the control of the crews and their exploitative pay and conditions by DPWorldUK. We say it's time to shut 'em down!

Northern Anarchist News from Organise!



Meanwhile in Ballymena



It looks like a CIA headquarters, but Ballymena's Eco Centre, set up in 2000 at the cost of £10 million, was originally to educate school kids and the wider public about the environment. Within a decade, the solar panels were switched off, the building was heated by a gas boiler and anti-union 'tech start-ups' had moved in and the school weans moved out. Now run by 'not for profit' business facilitator, Catalyst, the Centre hosts a weird collection of digital accountants, swimming pool manufacturers and something called 'cloud-based death care management'! Green, but not as we know it.

No Chickens in Moy Park



Workers at Randalstown's Moy Park plant placed pickets at the mill on Moneynick Road at 7am on Monday 6 June. Workers there are paid less per hour than workers at other Moy Park sites across the north. Production was halted after drivers, mill operators and engineers voted overwhelmingly for strike action after management tried to tie their equal pay to a change in their terms and conditions of employment. This from a firm which 'made' profits of £86 million last year and pays its head honcho something around £900,000. As we go to press pickets are still in place. We would encourage anyone who can to get down and show your support.

Acht na Gaeilge ag gabháil ar aghaidh?



Tá seanfhocal ann as Béarla – 'be careful what you wish for', agus sin rud éigin a smaoinneamh Gaeilgeoirí air i ndiaidh a bhfuair siad á nAcht ón Westminster an mhí seo caite. Níl ainrialáí in aghaidh cearta na nGaeil, ach tá sé doiligh orainn in achtanna parlaiminte a chreideamh.

Chomh maith leis sin, ba lán achtanna ann céanna féin síos i Mheicsiceo ón rugadh an stát, agus bhí sé ach dochrach ar a dteanga is pobail na Gaeltachta. Ba fuath le dhaoine an Ghaeilge ó glún go glún ansin agus is lú Ghaeilgeoirí anois iad i ndiaidh céad bliain. Nach mbeadh sé níos fearr feachtas in aghaidh an bhochtaineacht, teacht i dtír, agus éadóchas i measc lucht oibre Gaeilgeoirí?

Irish Language Act to go ahead?

There's an auld English proverb, 'be careful what you wish for', which would be worth pondering for Irish language speakers after Westminster appeared to have given them their Act. Anarchists aren't opposed to language rights, but it's hard for us to have faith in acts of parliament. As well as that, there have been loads of Irish language acts down in Mexico since the birth of the state and they have been universally harmful to the language and people of the Gaeltacht. People hated Irish for generations down there and there are fewer Irish speakers there now after a century of legislation. Wouldn't it be better to have a campaign against the poverty, exploitation, and hopelessness among working-class Irish speakers?

Identity Parades...



Recent election results provide a fair, if dull, illustration of the endurance of what has been essentialised as the 'ethno-national' division blighting the wee north. Two recent huge parades illustrated the division in much more striking and visual fashion.

On 20th May an estimated 12,000 to 17,000 marched from Cultúrlan McAdam Ó Fiaich to Belfast City Hall to demand legislative protection for the Irish language from Westminster. On 31st of May an estimated 25,000 took part in (and an estimated 100,000 came out to watch) the year late Northern Ireland centenary parade to celebrate the existence of 'their wee country'.

In some ways these two parades were very different but they both encapsulate a gulf between the political vision and aspirations of the two largest 'sections' of our community. Almost 25 years since Good Friday Agreement politics remains dominated by the sectarian division between pro-British Unionist and Irish Irelander Nationalist politics. It isn't really surprising though. The GFA was about managing conflict and division, it copper-fastened sectarianism and has perhaps even deepened division with the accompanying insistence that this is about 'culture' and ethno-nationalism as opposed to politics and economics. The consociational agreement saw a raft of anti-discrimination laws brought in, it did



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Strike Action On, Off, On and Off Again at Translink



After being on, off, then on again, the one-week strike across Ulsterbus and Metro was finally called off after workers accepted Translink management's third 'final' offer. Although short of the initial demands, the accepted offer was much improved from what was originally held out and, as it applies retrospectively to the tax year ending in April past, provides a better start from which to begin demands for 2022-23.

What can be learned from this sequence of events is that the one day stoppages often favoured by union leaders are mostly useless. They are tokenistic, not much more than a glorified protest, and generally result in little more for workers than a sense of pointlessness and loss of a day's pay for what seems like no larger gain. The threat of prolonged action, however, can wring more concessions, if it is clear that the worker are determined to carry it out.

With the strike being called off some questions remain, perhaps thankfully, unanswered, particularly in regards to the position of rail staff if confronted with a bus workers picket line. It seems that the respective managements of Translink and of the trade unions expected that rail staff would work as normal during the bus strike. This would have undermined the strike, and soured relations between bus and rail workers. But would significant numbers of rail staff have felt able to refuse to cross, in the absence of explicit backing from their union to do so? Some might have reported sick to avoid having to make the decision, but in enough numbers to make a difference? As inflation and the cost of living continue to spiral, and more concerted action likely becomes necessary, the type of solidarity that may be needed can ill-afford to be put at risk.

not however tackle class division. Nor could it. It was a capitalist 'solution' aimed at managing mutually exclusive political claims.

With the unstoppable rise of Sinn Féin, changing demographics, loyalist anti-protocol protests and a push for a border poll there seems like there is nothing but trouble ahead for the north's flawed settlement.

At the same time working-class people have other pressing concerns that are not reflected by either Nationalism nor Unionism. Capitalism confronts us with crisis after crisis. The rich get richer and profits increase as we suffer. States are failed entities for our entire class - and we are not talking just about the wee north. Everywhere the state is the political wing of capitalism, defender of wealth and privilege. Every state oppresses, divides and upholds the position of rich parasites.

Perhaps it's time to build a real alternative to the misery and exploitation faced by the working-class? Uniting those of us regarded as the 'natural' fodder of Orange and Green with migrant workers, north and south, east and west, and internationally - against capitalist exploitation and the oppression of all states.

Organise!

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Get Involved: Help Build An Anarchist Alternative.



Organise! is an anarchist political group in Ireland who take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, particularly those organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier...



The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com> and send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com

